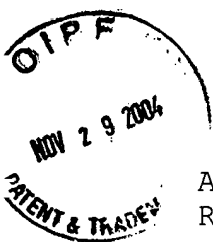


AF/3723
JW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant/
Real Party in Interest : HOWARD LEE

Serial Number : 09/932,629

Filed : 8/17/2001

For : SCREW DRIVER SYSTEM

Examiner : SMITH, JAMES G.

Group Art Unit : 3723

ATTORNEY DOCKET : LD27/01

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANT'S REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 1.193(b)(1)

This Reply Brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer of September 23, 2004. It is being submitted under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.193(b)(1) as described in 1208.03 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office has taken a position that renders complex a very simple issue.

Applicant's invention includes the claimed "shaft having a working inner portion and a working outer portion and with a square flat cut face on the outermost extent of the working end perpendicular to the axis of the shaft." The shaft is in combination with a threaded fastener formed with a "stepped recess having a cube-shaped interior reception area and a cube-shaped exterior reception area."

Applicant's claimed combination allows the shaft to be used efficiently with either large or small fasteners.

Rocca (4,448,097) does not disclose the claimed combination, nor could the Rocca device be used with any cube shaped reception area. Further, its intermediate area 200 is not intended for being received in a reception area.

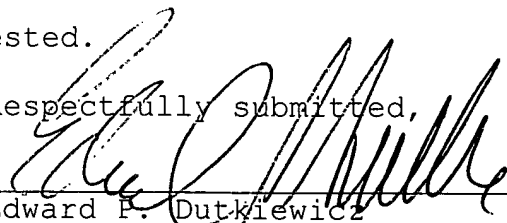
Parsons (3,888,144) cannot be used efficiently with fasteners of different sizes. Refer to the Figures of Appendix B of Applicant's Appeal Brief. Parsons employs a pyramid shaped end on his fastener, not the claimed "square flat cut face." By applicants' use of such square flat cut face, the smaller working inner portion can have greater contact with the larger reception area for increased efficiency over Parsons when used with smaller fasteners.

CONCLUSION

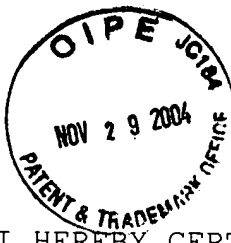
It is requested that the rejections to the claims be withdrawn and the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Reconsideration, a reversal of the Examiner's position, and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Reply Brief is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient First Class postage addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this the 23rd day of November 2004.



Jeanne M. Carrell